

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Quarterly



Autumn in Vermont—as seen through the lens of Warren W. Dexter of Rutland.

THE RUTLAND NAVY

The U.S.S. Rutland (APA 192), an amphibious personnel assault transport was commissioned on September 29, 1944, at Astoria, Oregon. Photos courtesy E. J. Scieszka.



1st Cavalry Division lined up for occupation of Japan. Yokohama, Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945.



Burial at sea. February 25, 1945. Iwo Jima.



Off for the beach. "D" day, Iwo Jima. February 19, 1945.



Seabees leaving the U.S.S. Rutland, February 25, 1945. Iwo Jima.



Canned music. Rest camp.



Casualties from Red Beach. "D" day, Iwo Jima.



Painting the ship. Okinawa, 1945.



Fire in the hold.



On the bridge. February 24, 1945.



Radioman First Class Edward J. Scieszka—1945.



Commodore Scieszka—1973.



WARREN W. DEXTER

Warren Dexter of Rutland began his photography career in 1936 upon graduation from the White School of Photography in New York. He is the grandson of the builder of Longfellow School and Wilson Castle. Mr. Dexter's special field was industrial and magazine illustration. He did considerable work for "Vermont Life" during its infancy, and was official photographer for the horse shows at South Woodstock for several years. He contributed illustrations to Keith Jennison's, "Vermont Is Where You Find It." Many Rutlanders will recall the years he spent in the photography department of Shangraw's Pharmacy.

Mr. Dexter spent several days developing an extensive series of portraits of Oran Sparks of Weston. Here is Sparks operating a horse-drawn grader, and at rest in his home.



Frank Gray of Middletown Springs. Mr. Gray was a historian, and owned an important rock collection. He stacked his woodpile "just for the exercise."



Book Review

Vermont. Photos by Sonja Bullaty and Angelo Lomeo. Text by Noel Perrin. Viking, 1973. 47pp. text, 48pp. photos. \$10.95.

The past few years have seen the appearance of numerous books celebrating the beauties of the Green Mountain State. This latest addition to those ranks is also one of the best. Using the changing seasons as their theme, the three collaborators have assembled a collection of highly evocative images of Vermont, both verbal and pictorial.

The photographs of Bullaty-Lomeo, a husband-and-wife team who make their home near Weston, have delighted many in *Vermont Life* and other publications. Here among other images they offer the glow of a winter sunset on Mount Mansfield, a nursing foal near Rochester, flower-dappled meadows and hillsides, and, of course, brilliant autumn foliage. What is particularly nice is the range of the pictures: there is both the grand and the intimate, the panoramic vista and the small corner of farm life.

Perrin, who divides his time between Dartmouth where he's a professor of English and his farm in Thetford Center, does equally well with the prose. He manages to discuss such wonderful Vermont phenomena as church suppers in August, apple picking in September, the clear, golden afternoons of October, and the delicate ice filigrees of February without getting all dewy-eyed and sentimental. He knows too that Vermont is politics and interstates and encroaching land developers and, in fact, remarks that certain urban areas in the state are "about as unspoiled as Jersey City." What is important in all this, though, is the natural rhythm of the seasons, their colors, textures, and moods, and these he records with a keen eye and joyous heart. He subscribes incidentally to the theory that Vermont has six seasons (the other two are November-December "locking" and March "unlocking").

It would have been nice if the book had included some photographs of the Perrin farm and the surrounding Thetford countryside which figure so largely in the text, but perhaps that will await another collaboration. In the meantime, readers can return again and again to this one for a renewed appreciation of just what makes this small state so special.

Reviewed by Jake Sherman



The unidentified young man in this farm scene was photographed by Warren Dexter.

Farm Town—A Memoir of the 1930's. Photographs by J. W. McManigal. Edited, with Text and additional photographs by Grant Heilman. The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vermont. 1974. 96pp. \$7.95.

Farm Town's photographs were selected from 8000 pictures taken by J. W. McManigal in his home town of Horton, Kansas between 1935 and 1940. The photos are interspersed with comments from Horton residents.

The photographs depict a way of life which changed radically after the Second World War. Except in isolated instances it has probably vanished completely now. One of the residents sums it up when he says, "That was my favorite tree, and they destroyed it when they widened the road. I suppose that's progress."

One can imagine the same photographs, except for differences in the landscape, having been taken in Vermont. A Vermonter can also feel the same sense of loss that the Kansas folks do.

Besides the historical value they have, the pictures are also excellent when viewed strictly in a photographic sense. Unlike the 1930's photographs of Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans, the effects of the Depression are not quite so evident.

The book ends with a few current pictures of Horton. What is interesting is that although the way of life has changed so much, the physical characteristics of the town haven't.

Reviewed by J. H. Langlois

JULIA C. R. DORR—A Continuing Report

The Society is planning appropriate observances of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Dorr, who was born February 13, 1825.

Just after our Julia Dorr issue had gone to press we established mail contact with Mrs. Dorr's namesake and last surviving granddaughter, Julia C. R. Panman of Tacoma, Washington.

A choice bit of *Dorriana* sent us by Mrs. Panman must be shared with our readers, for it displays the Ripley-Dorr wit, so apparent in the writings of Mrs. Dorr, her nephew Thomas Emerson Ripley and her grandson, Frederic Dorr Steele. With Mrs. Panman's permission it is here reprinted. On a statement for professional services rendered in the delivery of a baby girl (Mrs. Panman) the proud father, William Ripley Dorr, writes: "Doctor—do I need a bill of sale of the baby or does this make my title good?" The doctor adds his footnote: "Dear Sir. Your check received this A.M. covers all claims I have on certain property delivered to you on Sept. 29th. A bill of sale, duly attested and recorded, will be sent if desired. J. F. Baker, M.D."

JULIA DORR CALENDAR FOR 1975



The Society has available for Christmas gift giving an adaptation of an 1899 calendar featuring the poetry of Julia Dorr and the photographs of Louis Brehmer. The price to members is \$1.50 and copies will be available at the Museum or at the homes of any of the officers. Copies will be available to the general public at Hartford Bookstore, 54 Center Street, Rutland, at \$2.00 each. The cost of copies mailed by the Society is also \$2.00 each.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Many gifts poured in during the summer. We are grateful to E. Harold Lundin, former chief engineer of the Rutland Railroad, for an important collection of railroad material, including a section of the original track of the Rutland Railroad, a locomotive headlight and a box of railroad photographs.

Fred Field presented two sections of the original water main laid 150 years ago under Main Street near the old Baptist Church. From Robert Carey of Morristown, N. J. we received an 1814 map of Vermont engraved by Amos Doolittle. From the Rutland Herald came many old photographs and zinc plates plus a collection of art work used in the Herald's "Town Correspondent" columns fifty years ago.

A MILESTONE

The treasurer informs us that the Society has enrolled its first life member. We welcome to the Society Mrs. Gladys Kenney of Springfield, Massachusetts.

THE SOCIETY AT THE STATE FAIR

A large part of this issue is devoted to farms and rural scenes. Through the cooperation of the directors and trustees of the Rutland Fair Association and due to the generosity of local farmers the Society displayed a barn full of farm tools and equipment at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland. Thanks to the efforts of Chairman Leonard Korzun of Shrewsbury, members Richard Pratt and Alan Ridlon of Clarendon, Arch Todd and Sherwin Williams of Rutland Town, George Covalt of West Rutland, Chauncey Osborne, Stanley Mytych and F. P. Elwert of Rutland City, the exhibit was mounted and displayed to at least 10,000 visitors. Donations of significant farm tools are solicited and next year's exhibit promises to be even better.

Vrest Orton is shown in John Pratt's barn at "Alfrecha"—North Clarendon. Photo by Warren Dexter.





LEWELLYN EGELSTON

Photography was the lifelong hobby of Lewellyn J. Egelston, born in 1868 in Franklyn, N. Y. He came to Plymouth, Vt. as a young man, where he taught at the Frog City Schoolhouse in the evening, while he worked by day at Hubbard's store in Tyson. He moved to Rutland and taught at the Rutland English Classical Institute. Egelston later became owner of this hall of learning, from 1891 until his death in 1943. The school in more recent years has been known as Rutland Business College.

The family portrait below was taken by Lewellyn Egelston at the Aldrich-Philbrick Farm in Shrewsbury, around the turn of the century. At the back are Alvin Aldrich, Tas Egelston and Vera Egelston. In the front row, left to right, are Olive Russell Philbrick, Frances Crawford Egelston, Bertha Egelston, Mildred Egelston Beane, William Wallace Philbrick, Anna Philbrick Maccabee, Anna Cavanaugh and Lonnie Philbrick. Tippy has the front row place of honor.





Which twin has the Schwinn?—Photo by Lewellyn Egelston.



This photograph by Lewellyn Egelston was probably taken in Northam. From left to right are Addie Russell, Alice Russell Morehouse, Elsie Russell, Bertha Philbrick Egelston and Mildred Egelston Beane.

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